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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
TECHNOLOGY: ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AND THE
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

AND THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'QUICKSTAND' BERMUDAGRASS

The USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Quicksand Plant Materials Center in conjunction with the University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, and the USDA Agricultural Research Service announce the naming and release of 'Quickstand' bermudagrass (Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.). Quickstand (QS) has been known in field tests as RS-1, Quicksand common bermudagrass, QSC, and accn. 9034348. The permanent plant introduction number for QS is PI-557553. The name 'Quickstand' refers to the Plant Materials Center (PMC) at Quicksand, Kentucky and to the superior rate of spread demonstrated by this plant.

QS was selected from a native stand in field 2 of the Quicksand PMC and has been evaluated by PMC and University of Kentucky personnel since 1980. QS has been evaluated in over 60 field plantings, in replicated university tests (University of Kentucky, University of Florida, Southern Illinois University, University of Georgia, and Oklahoma State University), by the Agricultural Research Service at Beckley, West Virginia and Tifton, Georgia (also, at other sites by ARS) and in the National Bermudagrass Variety Evaluations (conducted in 10 states for turfgrass varieties).

QS is considered near tetraploid (2n=4x=36). However, this is inconclusive as chromosome counts of 37 and 38 have been reported. It is a common bermudagrass but produces very few seed. Reproduction will be by sprigs. QS can provide superior summer turf and pasture where winter temperatures may be restrictive for many other varieties. It has been evaluated at 900m (2950') elevation in West Virginia and at temperatures below -29°C (-20°F). Structurally QS is similar to other common bermudagrasses. It is a vigorous, pest resistant, drought and salt tolerant strain. Leaves are medium green, moderately fine textured (3-4cm L, 3-4mm W), and taper to a point. Forage production has been comparable to Coastal bermudagrass in amount and quality in Georgia. Winter-hardiness and yield exceeds that of Midland and other bermudagrasses tested at Beckley, West Virginia. Low growth (12cm) will limit QS's use for hay production.

Few turf varieties of bermudagrass are available for use in plant hardiness zone 6a. QS is adapted to this area. It is comparable in quality to Vamont but is slightly finer in texture and has shown tolerance to closer mowing. QS's rate of spread has been superior to all turf-types in available tests.

In addition to superior spread rate, QS is able to root in hard, dry soils. These characteristics make QS a choice plant for use on football fields, golf tee boxes, and golf fairways. Conservation uses would also include: heavy traffic areas, areas with restrictive soil conditions, and filter strips for waste water treatment.

QS has been evaluated extensively from Florida to Michigan and North Dakota. Plantings reflecting winter-hardiness include Manhattan, KS PMC, Rose Lake, MI PMC, and Cool Ridge, WVA with temperatures reported of -30° C (-22° F), -26° C (-14° F), and -31° C (-24° F) respectively. QS did not survive in North Dakota below -34° C (-30° F). QS provides useable stands well into plant hardiness zone 6a (illustrated by the 1990 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map). Production is limited to areas with a minimum of 28" to 30" of annual precipitation, or to areas with irrigation.

Breeder sprigs will be maintained by the USDA, SCS, Quicksand, KY PMC, Quicksand, KY. Only Certified sprigs may be sold commercially and will be maintained according to standards set by the Kentucky Seed Improvement Association. The Kentucky Foundation Seed Project will furnish Foundation sprigs, as available, to producers to establish Registered fields for the production of Certified sprigs. No Certified sprig producers exist at this writing. It is anticipated that sprigs will be available to growers in limited quantities in the spring of 1993 and commercially available in 1994.

Release date for publicity purposes shall be effective on the date of final signature on this release notice.

Chief Date
USDA Soil Conservation Service
Washington, D. C.

Administrator Date
USDA Agricultural Research Service
Washington, D. C.

State Conservationist Date
USDA Soil Conservation Service
Lexington, KY

12/4/92
Director Date
Kentucky Agri. Experiment Station
Lexington, KY